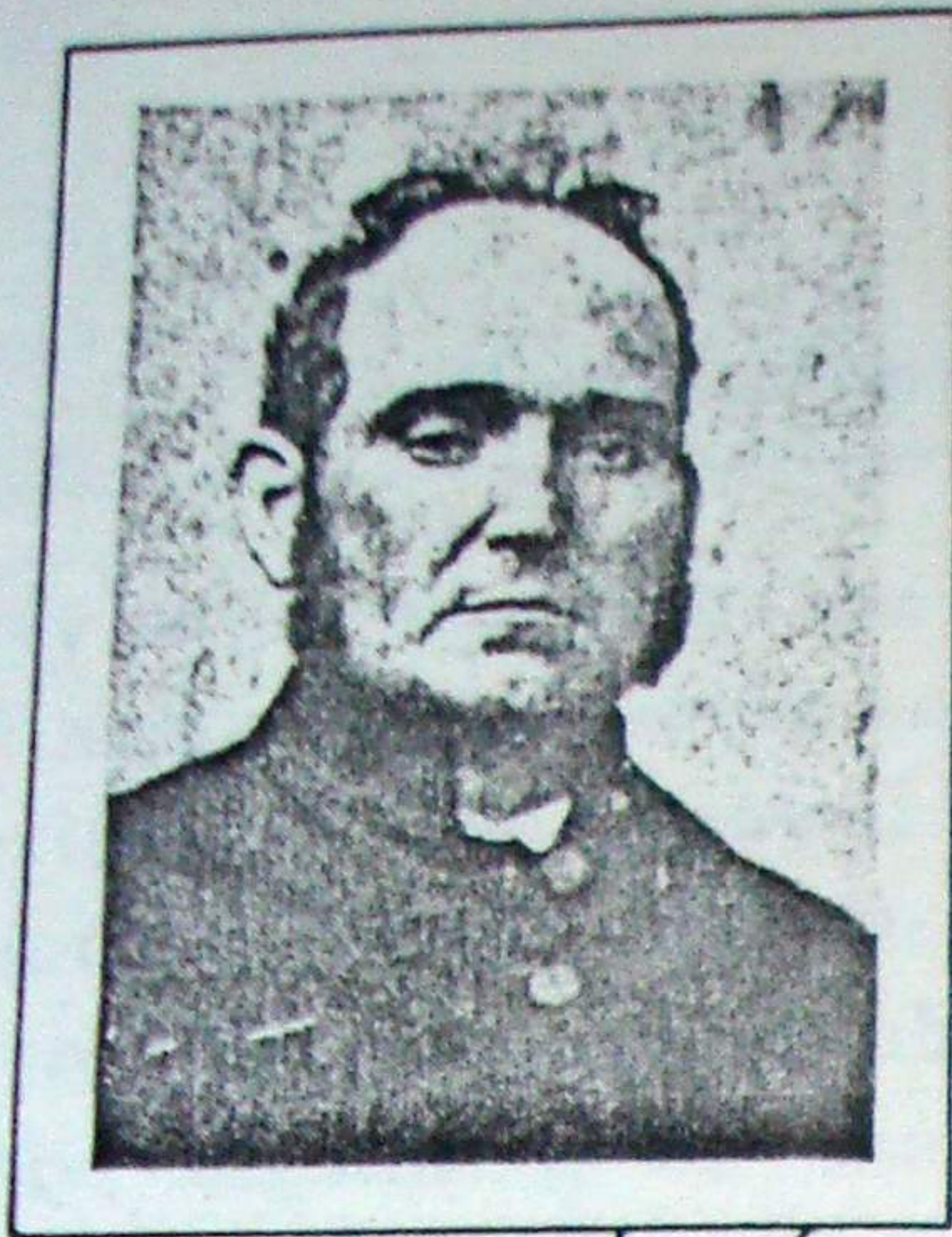


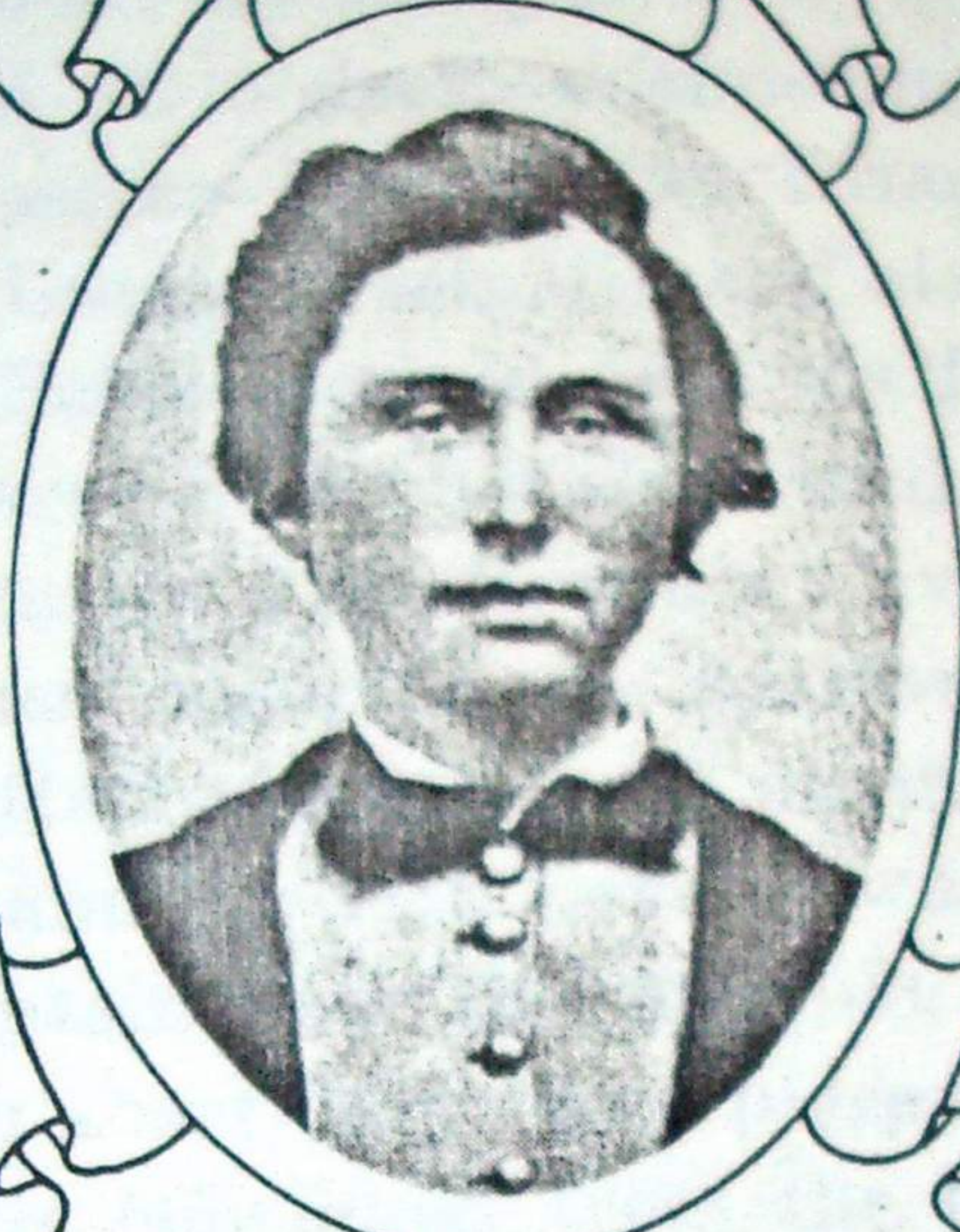
SOME PARTICIPANTS
IN THE BATTLE OF
DROOP MOUNTAIN



A W GREGG
CHAPLAIN
8TH W. VA MTD. INFANTRY



HENRY H. WITHERS
MAJOR
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. SUTTON
CO F, 10TH W VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. BAXTER
ORDERLY SGT.
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INF.
FELL LEADING
LAST CHARGE



LIEUT. HENRY BENT
CO. F, 10TH W VA.
PROMOTED TO
CAPTAIN
FOR GALLANT



G. W. ANGEL



J. E. SWAAD

DROOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see by the *National Tribune* where you inquire for information of any old comrade who was in the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was in that battle.

I belonged to the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry. The 14th Pennsylvania and the 2nd Virginia, 28th Ohio, Ewing's Battery of 1st Virginia Artillery, the 10th Virginia were sent around to the right to come in the rear of the fort. The brigade was dismounted at the foot of the mountain and we had orders to lay down and wait for orders.

I belonged to Company E, 14th Pennsylvania, and was wounded in my right arm, August 7, 1864, from which there is four inches of the bone removed. I am 81 years old, went to service when I was 16 years old. Was wounded at Moorefield, Virginia, also at Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in my finger.

GEORGE W. ARISON.

Soldiers Home Hospital, July 14, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I see in the *National Tribune* that you wished to get in communication with some survivor of the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was a member of the 10th West Virginia Regiment Infantry and took part in that battle. We were on the right wing of our forces and soon as we located the enemy in thick timber we charged and routed them without any casualties on our part, but with heavy loss to the enemy. Until we came to an open space where the timber had been cut down. There we received a galling fire, and lost a number of men, all from one volley. We then took shelter behind logs and timber, and that is where Sergeant Bird Curry lost his life. We then deployed to the right and routed the Johnnies, and that ended the battle.

Yours truly,

L. S. CLOTHIER,

Co. A, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

Gassaway, W. Va., April 27, 1927.

MY DEAR MR. SUTTON:

I will try and answer you at this late date, as I was away at the arrival of your letter, but will now try to do so.

In the morning of the 6th of November, as the day of the battle,

early in the morning, the Union army began to move on the Southern army in the levels near hills below, that is coming down from Marlinton. They moved down very early. Pop shooting began about 8 o'clock. Jackson moved his besieged back up on the crown of the Droop, and at about 10 o'clock, skirmishing began, very lively, beginning on the eastern face of the Droop, continuing around southward near the Locust Creek Mill and also north to the Black Mountain. General Echols arrived with his force from the direction of Lewisburg, between 8 and 9 o'clock, and Colonel Cochran near the same time, with the 14th Virginia Cavalry. General Echols with most of his men occupied the southern part of the mountain, but Derricks Battalion was placed on the north of the left wing of W. L. Jackson, and the 14th Cavalry was placed on the main top of the main mountain near the turnpike in rear of the artillery. General Jackson's artillery was placed north of the turnpike. His line of battle continued from the turnpike northward around to Hills Creek, including the line of Derricks skirmishers, as stated commenced at about 1 o'clock. Fighting fiercer and fiercer began in earnest and ended at or near 4 or 4:30 in the evening.

General Averell moved his men very near the top of Droop, the men were surprised, but I was not. I told the General but I was too late with the news. That is why I was there in the charge to call Colonel Derrick to fall back. I lost my horse by it, and was captured to boot, but got away before they got off the mountain. I belonged to Company B, 26th Virginia Cavalry, W. L. Jackson's Brigade. I was a courier and then knew nearly all the southern lines of battle.

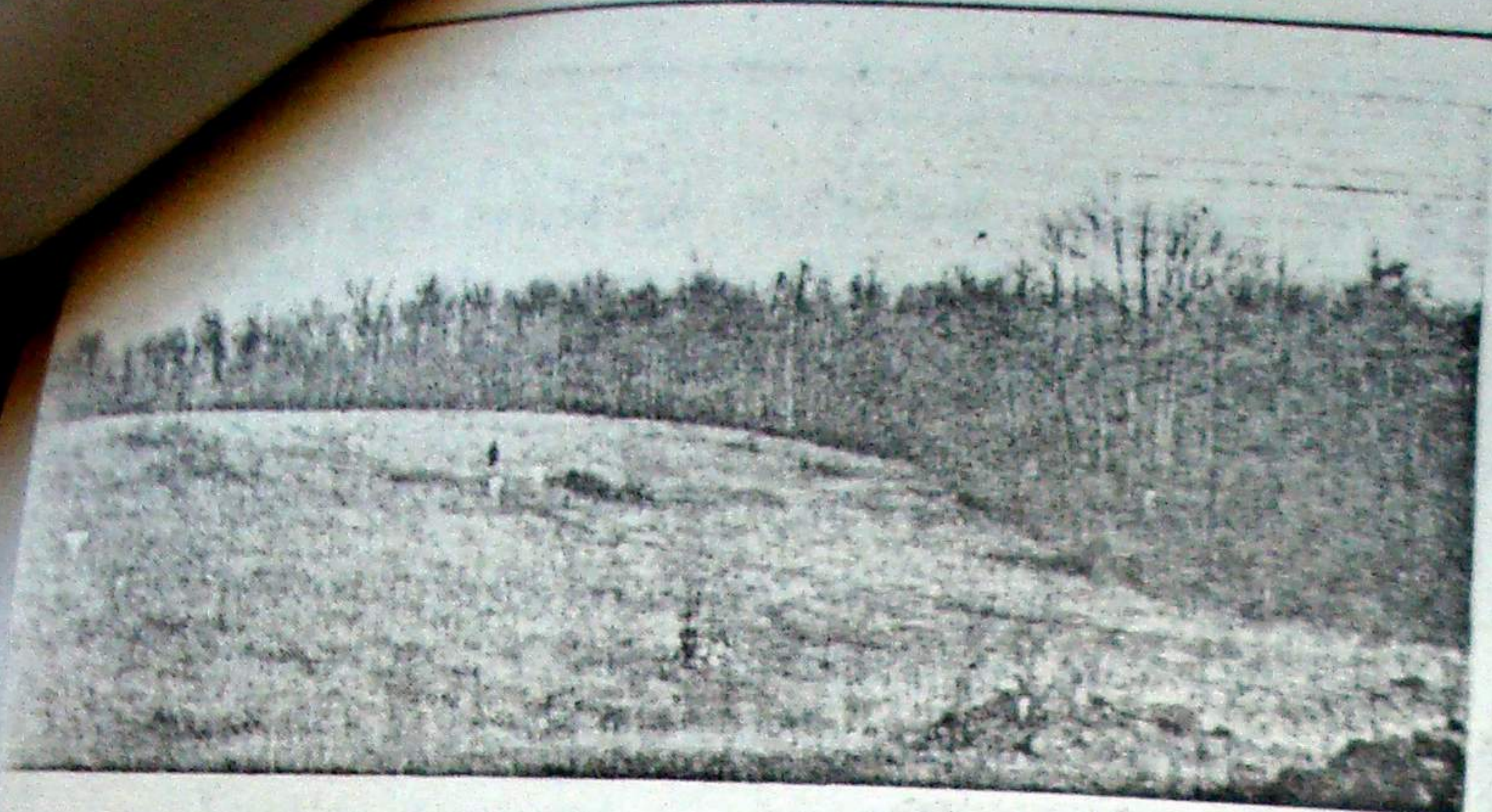
The regiments in front of the center, east of Droop Mountain, that I knew was there was the 14th Pennsylvania, the 8th and 16th Cavalry, the 10th West Virginia and 28th Ohio. Those two regiments done the heavy part of the fighting. All lines that I come in contact with that day had skirmish lines. As to prisoners caught on either side, I don't remember. But there was forty captured when I was. I might be able to be present and attend a meeting of the Committee at some time this year, I can't just say.

You must be light on considering or criticising my pencil scratching, as my eyes are very bad.

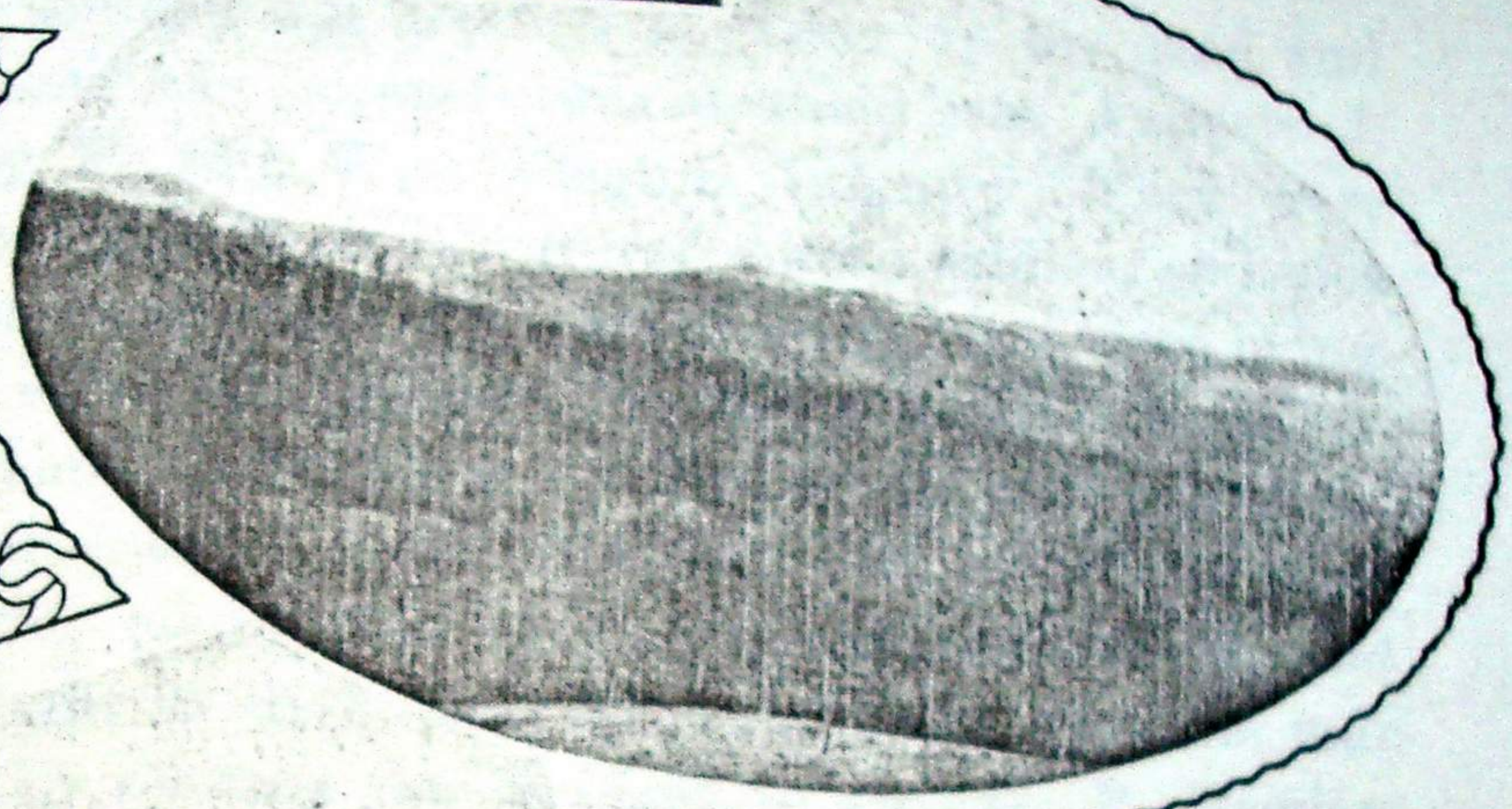
Yours respectfully,

MILTON BUTCHER.

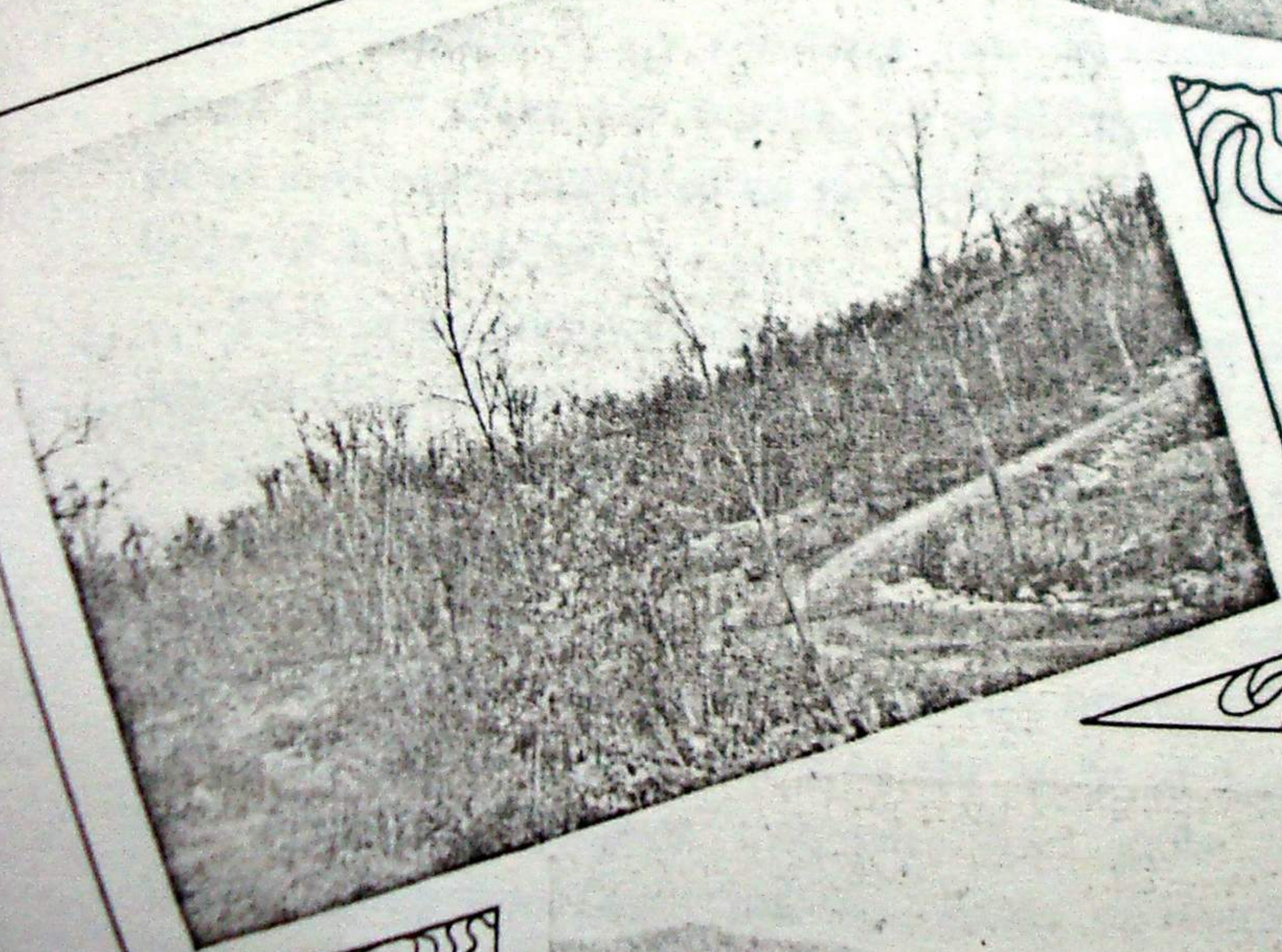
NOTES The bones of the horse have been discovered



BLOODY ANGLE WHERE BAXTER FELL INSIDE ENEMY'S LINES WHILE LEADING HIS COMPANY, ALSO SHOWING UPPER END OF LAKE.



BRIDGE OVER WHICH 10TH W. VA. AND 28TH OHIO CROSSED, AND FORWARD LINE OF BATTLE AT 4:45 P.M.



WHERE THE FEDERAL INFANTRY STRUCK THE LEWISBURG PIKE AT LOWER END OF LAKE.



FORMATION OF 10TH W. VA. AND 28TH OHIO AT EDGE OF FIELD, 4:45 P.M.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

Incidents

Your Commission has tried to so mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which we have planted and the maps which we have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Colonel Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a rail fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our Chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and they both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. The man who shot Barnett gave his life

for the cause he espoused. George H. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. This occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few moments after this Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of courage and daring.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle, a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light he discovered for a certainty that the man was his brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newlon, many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew the lifeless body of his brother.

This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever, to our knowledge, been recorded in the annals of warfare.

After the battle, a young woman was observed going among the Confederates, looking intently into the face of each one. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George." She was the guest at the house of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davison, of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, its heart rending scenes, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordinance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said "Damned if I know." Sisler said he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swecker	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton	Private	A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj. Moore	Private	C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Burkhammer	Private	C	

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Benj. Moore, Private.....	C		Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Burkhammer, Private...	C		Gunshot wound through left forearm
George Osborn, Corporal.....	C		Gunshot wound through right arm
Franklin Fisher, Private.....	D		Gunshot wound right thigh, middle third
John Queen, Private.....	D		Gunshot wound through left shoulder

DROOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

M. Hours, Private.....	D	Gunshot wound through right arm above and below elbow
Mortimore Stalnaker, Sergt....	E	Gunshot wound through little finger
John Forrester, Private.....	D	Gunshot wound right hand
James H. Dodd, Corporal.....	E	Gunshot wound in left knee joint retained
Wm. M. Barnett, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through right leg near knee joint
John Blagg, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound right ankle, serious involving joint
Newlon Squires, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound top of right shoulder
E. B. Wheeler, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left shoulder
Jacob Riffle, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left arm, shattered humerus
Silas M. Morrison, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through both arms
Addison Wilson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through middle, ring and little fingers
George C. Gillispie, Private...	F	Gunshot wound through left leg
Milton Rollyson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through left forearm
John Rollyson, Private.....	F	Gunshot wound through middle finger right hand
Coleman Wyant, Private.....	G	Gunshot wound in abdomen, flesh wound
M. A. Jeffries, Corporal.....	G	Gunshot wound in left thigh
Nimrod Weiss, Private.....	H	Gunshot wound in right side, perforating bowels
James M. Randle, Private.....	H	Gunshot wound in left thigh, lower third, flesh wound

KILLED

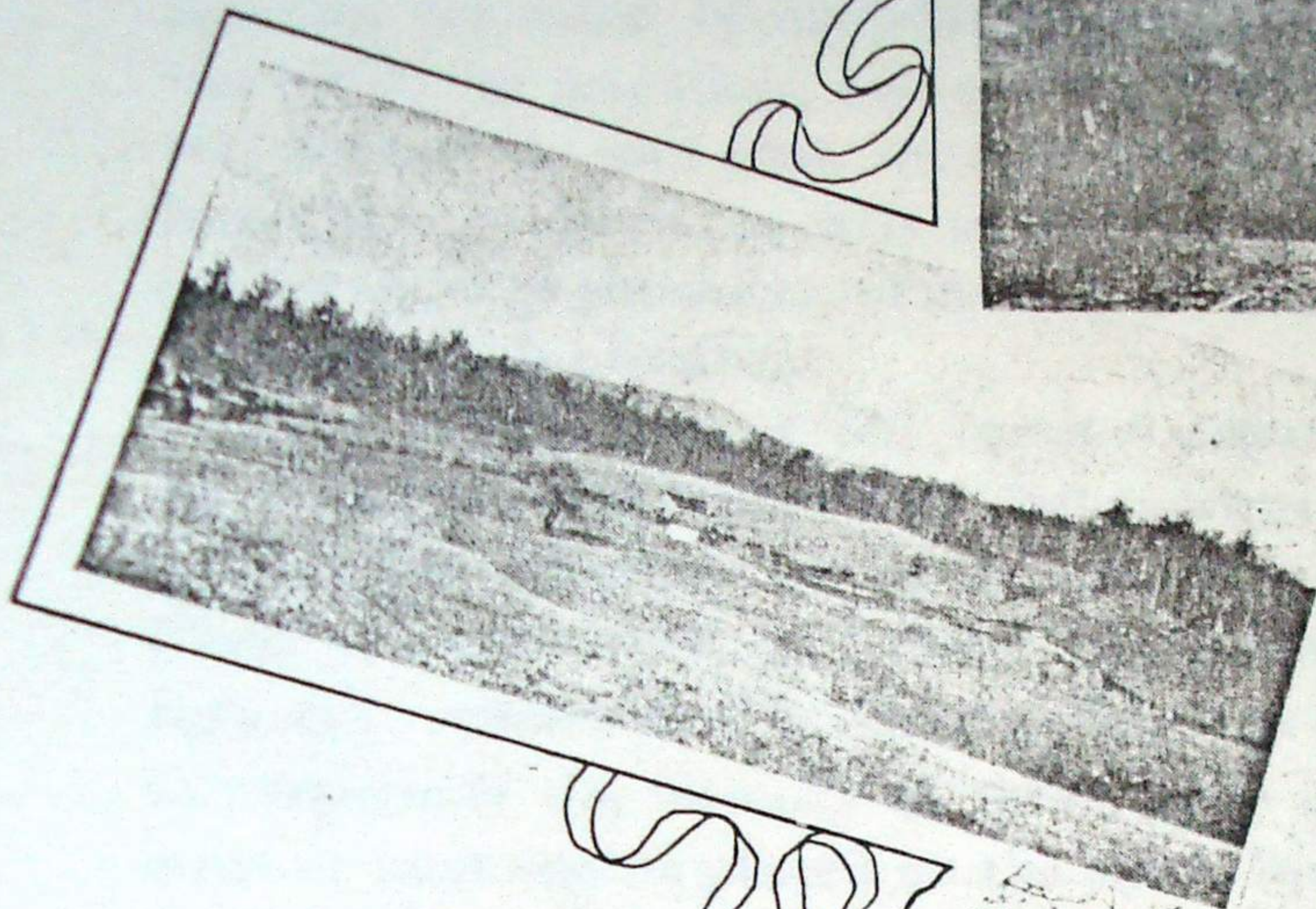
B. Curry, Sergeant.....	A	Gunshot in head
G. I. Shaw, Private.....	A	Gunshot mortally
Chas. Bryson, Private.....	D	Gunshot in head
M. Shriever, Private.....	E	Gunshot mortally
John D. Baxter, O. S.....	F	Gunshot in bowels
Coleman Channel, Captain.....	H	Gunshot mortally
David Sanders, Private.....	H	Gunshot mortally
Wesley Pullens, Private.....	H	Gunshot mortally

Five killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly sergeant, Company F, killed.

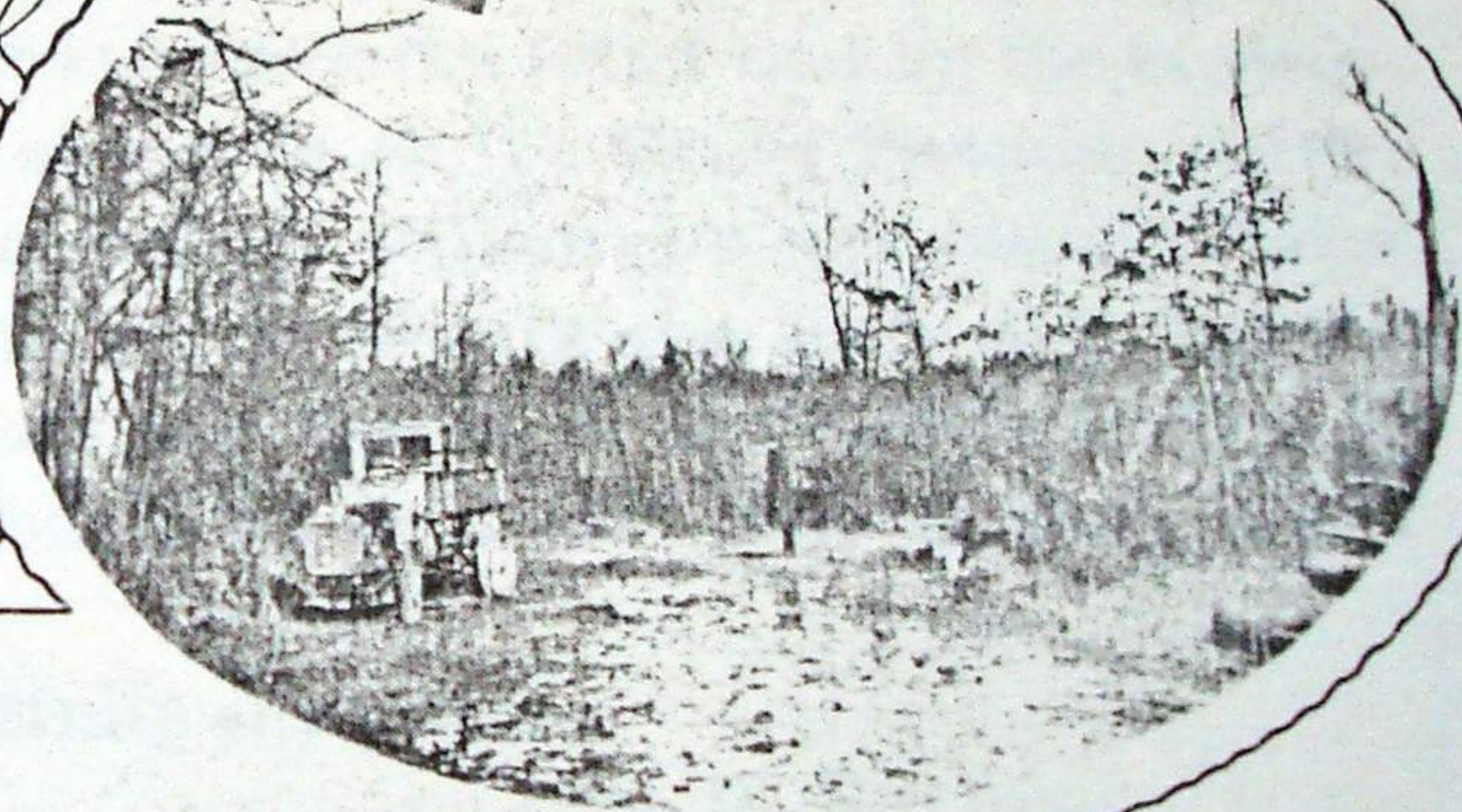
Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battlefield great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no greater attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battlefield, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living of either army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State,

LOCUST CREEK FROM
BREAST WORKS



MCCARTY FARM, SHOWING
GORE'S GROVE AND
STATE ROAD #24.



MARKER ON OLD ROAD,
WHERE MAJOR BAILEY FELL
WHILE TRYING TO RALLY THE
22ND VIRGINIA INFANTRY.
STATE ROAD # 24.



EWING'S BATTERY, 320 POLES
EAST OF LURTY'S BATTERY, BY
GROVE OF TREES.



LOOKING FROM BREAST WORKS
TO HILLSBORO, SHOWING YANKEE
FLATS, AND WHITE HOUSE TO LEFT,
GENERAL AVERELL'S HEADQUARTERS
ON NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

the West Virginia Historical Society at a recent meeting, held in Charleston, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That we, the West Virginia Historical Society earnestly commend the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for their labors and zeal, in acquiring title to the land on which the battle was fought, and for the work that has been done and the effort that is being made for the improvement and beautifying one of the greatest natural scenic views of the State; and that funds should be appropriated to carry on the work that the Commission has begun.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby extended to Governor Gore for the aid he has given the Battlefield Commission in its work, and

Resolved, further, That the memory of the brave men, of both armies, who fought the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, should be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and the battle's history, and that the State should no longer neglect this historic battlefield in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of her own sons, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the dead."

Your Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet, and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile in length, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should also be obtained and that an appropriation of \$35,000.00 may be made for the payment of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement as rapidly as possible, and we would further recommend that the marketable timber on the lands be sold and that the ridge, hereinbefore referred to, should be made accessible for flying machines; and also that the water of the lake should be impounded; and that suitable driveways and other attractive features be prepared as early as possible and that ultimately a great park may be established and maintained that would be equal at least to those in other states.

Your Commission would further recommend that your Excellency call the attention of the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schoonmaker, and the 28th Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battlefield that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. D. SUTTON,
N. F. KENDALL,
R. F. KIDD,
M. M. HARRISON,
A. L. HELMICK.